

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03664 241248Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9755

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3664

NODIS

PASS TO SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: SECURITY FORCE FOR LEBANON

1. QUESTIONS BEING REAISED IN SEVERAL QUARTERS (INCLUDING QUERY FROM BRITISH AMBASSADOR) ABOUT YR VIEWS ON THE CREATION OF A SECURITY FORCE. MAIN REQUEST FOR CLAIFI- CATION CENTERS ON WHAT IS MEANT BY A STRICTLY LEBANESE FORCE. (REUTERS APPARENTLY SPEAKS OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE.) IN OTHER WORDS WOULD NON-LEBANESE INTEREST BE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCIS E.

2. FOR THE MOST PART THE CHRISTIAN AND CONSERVATIVE MOSLEMS BELIEVE IT IS INDISPENSABLE FOR SYRIA OR SOME OTHER OUTSIDE POWER TO PLAY A ROLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE POSSIBLITY OF PUTTING TOGETHER A SECURITY FORCE THAT WOULD BE A PURELY LEBANESE INITIATIVE AND BE COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF LEBANESE UNITS MAINLY A JUNBLATTIAN CONCEPT AT PRESENT.

2. WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE FOR US TO BE SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT THE SPECIFICS AT THIS TIME.

WARING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, CHRISTIANS, MOSLEMS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, CONSORTIUMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: AD: SECRETARY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840108-2365
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavxb.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY FORCE FOR LEBANON
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006